

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /064 W
----- 060445

R 160841Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1704

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI PINT NP

SUBJ: STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: KATHMANDU 2098

1. UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT KATHMANDU VALLEY REMAIN CLOSED AS STUDENT STRIKE ENTERS THIRD WEEK. DESPITE EFFORTS BY UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO NEGOTIATE STUDENT DEMANDS, LEADING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE REFUSED TO MEET WITH AUTHORITIES AND HAVE VIRTUALLY CLOSED DOWN ALL COLLEGES. SOME SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN VALLEY ARE ALSO OUT ON STRIKE, ALLEGEDLY AS SYMPATHY MOVE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN COUNTRY (TANSEN, BHAIRAWA, OKHLADHUNGA AND BIRATNAGAR) ARE ALSO ON STRIKE.

2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ONE OR TWO MONTH "SUMMER VACATION" FOR ALL UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO BEGIN MAY 17. ONE MONTH VACATION WOULD NORMALLY COME IN EARLY JUNE, BUT AUTHORITIES NOW FEEL SITUATION IS BEYOND CONTROL AND THAT IT IS BETTER TO CLOSE DOWN THAN RUN RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN PAST WEEK IN

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WHICH POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT, HMG CONTINUES POLICY OF

RESTRAINT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION.

3. STUDENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GENERATE WIDESPREAD
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STRIKE, DESPITE EARLIER EFFORTS (REFTEL)
TO TIE MOVEMENT TO PRICE HIKES AND OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES
OF PUBLIC CONCERN. ATTITUDE AMONG THOSE PERSONS WE HAVE
TALKED WITH SEEMS TO BE THAT STUDENTS HAVE GONE TOO FAR
AND IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK. QUANTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA02240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-1065
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaaboyp.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KATHMANDU 2098
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES
TAGS: SOCI, PINT, NP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006